

since that time, in the last couple of months and more recently than that—actually last week in one case—several people involved in her original case have come forward to the press and to the committee to set the record straight from the record and the story that she told the committee at the time.

So the lead investigator on this case wrote a letter to Chairman MANCHIN and to me. I am the ranking member on the committee. That investigator, who I will tell you has worked as a special criminal investigator for the U.S. Government for 28 years, has been a longtime member of the U.S. military, served in Vietnam, and retired as a criminal investigator because of death threats made to him and to his family by the group who worked on this ecoterrorism—he retired from that. But he wrote to the committee. He came forward, and he said that she was the nastiest of suspects. He said that not only did she have knowledge of the plan to spike the trees, he said she was one of the planners.

He wrote to us and said:

It became clear that Ms. Stone-Manning was an active member of the original group that planned the spiking of the Post Office Timber Sale.

So there he is, a criminal investigator. Then just last week, one of the convicted tree spikers, one of the people who actually went to jail because of that—he came forward in an interview in the press. In an interview with E&E News, the convicted tree spiker confirmed that Tracy Stone-Manning knew of the plan to spike the trees, in his words, “well in advance.”

Now, according to the investigator's letter, Ms. Stone-Manning's lack of co-operation actually set back their initial investigation many years. Eventually, when she was identified and received an investigation target letter, she had to make a decision. The lead investigator said she only agreed to testify after she was caught and after her lawyer negotiated an immunity deal.

Tracy Stone-Manning—she helped plan the tree spiking. She covered up for the terrorists and their activity for years. She refused to cooperate with authorities, and she only testified when she was caught and given immunity.

After all this, she created a story and lied to our committee about the incident. On a sworn affidavit to her committee questionnaire, she said it was an alleged tree spiking and that she was not the subject of an investigation.

I specifically asked her: Did you have personal knowledge of, participate in, or in any way directly or indirectly support activities associated with the spiking of trees in any forest during your lifetime? Her response under oath was no.

Both the cop, the criminal investigator, and the criminal, the man who went to jail as the group went to jail for this—they both came forward after

her hearing to say that Tracy Stone-Manning was lying to the Senate.

Over the past 30 years, she has made contradictory statements about the ecoterrorist incident and the network. In 2013, she told a Montana State Senate committee that she was intimidated into sending the letter by a stranger. Yet, in courtroom testimony, she admitted that the tree spikers were her friends. She was one of the ring leaders of the group.

There are many qualified Democrats who could run the Bureau of Land Management. Within the Federal Government, this is the group who oversees one-eighth of all the land in the United States. It is astonishing to me that Democrats are digging in to defend a proven liar and an ecoterrorist collaborator.

So Senator SCHUMER came to the floor today and made it very clear that he is going to support this deeply flawed nominee. Will other Democrats do it as well? Will other Democrats who have millions of acres of BLM land in their States—will they join him?

Things have certainly changed, and it is interesting what has happened to the Bureau of Land Management and the nominees, because President Obama's BLM Director, Bob Abbey, came forward. He said that her actions should disqualify her from leading this important Agency. We are talking about President Obama's Director of the Bureau of Land Management says her history and her past and her activities should disqualify her.

One Biden administration official admitted to NBC News—this was in the last week—her nomination was described as “a massive vetting failure”—“a massive vetting failure.”

Now, there is going to be more to say about this nominee when an attempt is made to discharge her out of the committee, if they get to that point, a cloture vote on the floor, and again, a vote on confirmation. Lots to be said. More information will come out.

It is just hard for me, as the ranking member of that committee, to imagine a nominee more disqualified than Tracy Stone-Manning. She has collaborated with ecoterrorists, she has lied to the Senate, and she continues to harbor truly extremist views that most Americans find reprehensible.

I strongly oppose her nomination. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same. Tracy Stone-Manning is unfit to serve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING MACNOLIA COX

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, earlier this month, Zaila Avant-garde became the first Black American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. It is kind of discouraging in the year 2021 that barrier still needed breaking.

Her achievement is an inspiration for so many students around the country.

She drew strength and courage from another trailblazer who had gotten significant less attention, whose story has not been told and honored the way that Zaila was.

In 1936, 13-year-old MacNolia Cox from Akron, OH, became one of the first two Black students to compete in the National Spelling Bee. She qualified after winning the regional competition that went 60–6–0—rounds, sponsored by the Akron Beacon Journal. Black communities across the country cheered her victory. They looked forward to her joining the national competition. She was celebrated at churches and clubs, talked about by celebrities, and even politicians. At the RKO Palace in Cleveland, band leader Fats Waller, tap dancer Bill Robinson, whom we know, whom history knows as Mr. Bojangles, brought her on stage.

Three thousand Ohioans came to Akron's Union Station to send MacNolia off on her journey to Washington. She had little idea the treatment she would endure at the tip of the Jim Crow South. She was forced to ride—she is, essentially, Ohio's representative at the National Spelling Bee, a 13-year-old Black—I was going to say Black young woman—Black girl from Ohio. She was forced to ride in segregated train cars. She was forced to stay at a private home instead of at the Willard hotel.

Nine years later, my parents—my dad came from overseas, my mom from Mansfield, GA—met at the Willard hotel at the end of his service in World War II.

She could not stay at the Willard hotel because she was African American, while all the other White competitors did. At a dinner for the finalists, she and her mother were forced to enter through the kitchen door of the hotel and sit at a separate table segregated from the other finalists. How shameful that was.

Despite it all, MacNolia Cox made it far in the competition. There were only five students left when the judges gave her a proper noun to spell. She hadn't studied it. Proper nouns were supposed to be off limits. The judges had had enough of a Black girl getting that far. They wouldn't listen to the Beacon Journal reporter, who covered her to report on the competition. She pointed out to the judges that the judges—the judges—weren't following their own rules. She was eliminated. Of course, she was. Her achievements, her story soon faded from memory until now.

Zaila Avant-garde talked to the media about scrolling through pictures of national spelling bee contestants with her father, seeing face after face that didn't look like hers.

It reminds me, yesterday, I had breakfast with the Secretary of the Treasury at the Treasury Department. To get to her office—her office, “her,” I reiterate—you walk down a long, long, long hallway. Every picture in the hallway are people who look like me. They were Secretaries of the

Treasury. Every single Secretary of the Treasury, until Janet Yellen, looked like—well, older, certainly, than the Presiding Officer—but looked like we do.

She saw MacNolia Cox's face, and she learned her story as she was looking through these. She told reporters when she was competing, she thought of MacNolia. She thought about what she had endured 85 years earlier.

Now, more Americans are learning both of their stories. More kids are seeing themselves in the faces of champions. That is why Black history matters. It matters in the classroom. It matters in movies. It matters on the Senate floor. It matters in books. It matters in TV shows. It matters in the national news. It is how we shine a light on the injustices students like MacNolia and Zaila had to overcome and work to fight them.

It is how we show kids that these are dreams—these aren't dreams only for certain kids who look a certain way. These dreams, these aspirations, these achievements in 21st century America should be for everyone.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Akron's MacNolia Cox, and even more importantly, telling her story for future generations.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, over the past week, we have put money directly—directly—in the pockets of the families of 60 million American children.

In Ohio, 2.1 million children, their families got hundreds of dollars each in tax cuts, money to help them keep up with the costs of raising a family, money they will spend in the local economy—I say to the Presiding Officer, you know this, the largest tax cut for working families in American history ever.

Stories have poured into our office from across Ohio—the Presiding Officer is hearing those in Hawaii—all from parents who work hard to make ends meet. They now have a little bit extra of their own money back to spend on groceries and childcare and medical bills and school supplies.

We care about families. There is a lot of talk in this body about we care about families. Well, if you care about families, this is all about empowering families. Families decide how to spend these dollars; MITCH MCCONNELL doesn't decide. Joe Biden doesn't decide. BRIAN SCHATZ doesn't decide. I don't decide how we spend these dollars. Families decide. They are dollars they have earned working hard to provide for their family—it is hard work raising children—and how they have raised their kids.

I think all of us are hearing these stories. Some of them on our websites, some of us in townhalls, we are hearing these stories. Let me just briefly tell just a handful of them.

Rob, from Copley, OH, said he is going to spend it on “bills and neces-

sities, especially necessities for [my] kids.”

Traci said she is going to use it to “pay for my children's sports fees.”

One mother said, “My 8-year-old was able to attend a Coding Camp this week” for the first time. She was just thrilled.

We know how expensive healthcare is. We know how medical bills and copays and premiums eat away at families' budgets. So many parents have talked about how this will help them afford healthcare expenses.

Leanne, from Akron, is going to be able to afford “my daughter's medical bills.”

Hayley said she will use the tax cut “to pay for speech therapy for [her] child.”

Susan said it will allow her to “pay for my child's dyslexia tutoring.”

Jen said, “Ours will be going straight”—you have to love this one—“Ours will be going straight to the orthodontist each month.”

Brittney wrote that this tax cut “came at a great time.” She said:

My son got sick with pneumonia this . . . week. That led to an urgent care visit, breathing treatment, chest X-rays, and a lot of medicine—so our payment will go to [emergency] medical bills to make sure our son [can thrive] and has the medicine he needs.

The Presiding Officer may remember that there were two votes on the child tax credit. First, an amendment to take it out—every Republican voted to take it out—and then an amendment to pass the bill on March 6 at about this time of day and every Republican voted against it. I know it is all about tax cuts for rich people for them, but we can get to that later.

We know another benefit of this is, this is money spent in communities. I am not getting any notes from parents saying: “You know, thank you, Senator BROWN, for this child tax credit you have been working on for a decade. I am going to put more money in my Swiss bank account.” Nobody is saying that. We have gotten so many stories already how this money supports the economy and supports jobs.

Katie from Brecksville: Month 1, she is using it for “a much-needed family vacation.” Month 2, she is using it for “school supplies.” That supports hotel jobs and restaurants jobs and retail jobs.

Lyndsay said she had used it for “back to school clothes,” again, supporting local retailers.

Brittany from Butler said: “We will be able to put new windows in the kids' bedrooms that will keep them cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.” That sounds like work for a local handyman or a woman or a window business.

Lisa said she is spending it on “diapers and school supplies . . . we put a little into starting a 529 college fund.”

Think about that. These families are struggling. I don't know for sure, but sounds like Lisa may have a couple of

children, so she gets this—they are little, so she is going to get \$300 per child. So she gets \$600 July 15. She will get \$600 August 15. She will get \$600 September 15. She will get \$600 October 15 and November 15. And she has decided she can now afford a few things she couldn't afford. But she is going to maybe put \$100 of that every month into a 529 college fund so her child will be—the whole idea of infrastructure is building a base, a foundation, to launch children into better lifestyles, to launch children into a more productive life, to give kids opportunity. That is what this does. That is what the child tax credit does. And it is almost every-body.

Ninety-two percent of Ohio kids' families are getting a tax cut every single month. So many parents mention the costs of childcare. So often, over and over, we hear how this will allow parents to afford the childcare that allows them to go to work.

Courtney, a mother, wrote that her tax cut is already more than half—“slightly more than half the cost of part-time daycare tuition per month here in Athens,” down in southeast Ohio. She said, it is appreciated so much, the “help getting my child back into childcare and keeping me and my husband in the workforce.”

So it comes back to one question—I think the Presiding Officer knows this—whose side are you on? Whose side are you on in these fights? Are you on the side of the parents who work hard every day for their families?

In a dignity-of-work roundtable in our Senate Banking Committee, a woman from West Virginia said the words “working” and “poor” shouldn't be in the same sentence. The words “working” and “poor” shouldn't be in the same sentence. These are families who are working really hard. Give them a little bit of a break so they can rise above the poverty line so they can afford some things to launch their children into more productive lives.

So are you on the side of these parents who work every day? Or are my colleagues going to raise these families' taxes at the end of the year? Because this expires next year, if we don't continue it. I haven't seen any help yet on their side wanting to come in. I am still hopeful.

We remember what happened on 2017. The Presiding Officer remembers this. In 2017, you could walk out this door pretty much any time of day, and you could look down the hall in 2017, and you could see lobbyists lined up outside of MITCH MCCONNELL's office, all well dressed, all really, really well paid, all hat in hand—some literally, some figuratively—saying: Senator MCCONNELL, we need this additional tax break.

Do you know what? We spend \$1.5 trillion on that tax cut. They don't want to spend \$100 billion a year on these children. One hundred billion is—I should do the math really quick—about 8 percent of \$1.5 trillion, something like that—6 percent. So they will